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(*d*) whether copies of the Government proposals and the reply of the municipality will be placed on the table; and

(*e*) if the proposals have not been forwarded to the municipality, what the reasons are for the delay?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*).—The financing of the scheme is still under the consideration of the Government. No proposals have yet been referred to the municipal council.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know what is the difficulty with regard to financing the scheme?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"In answer to a previous question I have given details. The Government are now considering the question of fixing a water-rate for water taken by the municipality."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Is the water taken by the municipality also to be charged, Sir?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Yes, Sir."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Measures for the constitution of Temple Committees under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

* 620 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps the Government have taken for the constitution of the elected Temple Committees under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act;

(*b*) the districts where such committees have not been constituted and the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) whether the financial position of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board has not improved after the passing of the amended Act giving the Board more powers and whether such improved finances are in any manner utilized for the purpose of the constitution of the elected committees?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*).—Owing to lack of funds it has not been possible in many districts to hold elections for the constitution of the committees. The Government have under consideration the question of amending the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1926 (II of 1927), so as to enable them to reconstitute the committees by nomination. Committees have been constituted in the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Tinnevelly. In the Madura district a committee is working in respect of the Sri Minakshi Sundareswarar Devasthanam and its allied institutions.

(*c*) The financial position of the Board has improved to a certain extent, but the Board is not as yet in a position to spare funds for the purpose.

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Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" The answer states that Government are considering the question of amending the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act so as to reconstitute the committees. Since the committees are not functioning for over two years, may I request the hon. the Chief Minister to expedite the proposed amendment of the Act? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The question is yet pending and, as soon as time permits, we will undertake legislation."

Reconstitution of Temple Committees.

* 621 *Q.*—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in several districts the Hindu Temple Committee have not yet been reconstituted;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to state why they have not been so reconstituted; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, so as to enable the Hindu Religious Endowments Board to reconstitute the temple committees in a satisfactory manner?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Owing to lack of funds it has not been possible to hold elections.

(*c*) The question of amending the Hindu Religious Endowments Act to enable Government to reconstitute the Committees by nomination wherever necessary is under consideration.

Districts enjoying the privilege of elected temple committees.

* 622 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) in which of the districts elected temple committees are functioning;

(*b*) why election for temple committees has not been introduced in the Salem district;

(*c*) who the members are of the temple committee in the Salem district now;

(*d*) whether this temple committee has got executive powers or whether it is only advisory;

(*e*) when elected temple committees are to come into operation in Salem district; and

(*f*) how many temple committees are to be there then and what the area represented by each is?

A.—(*a*) Committees are functioning in the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Tinnevelly. In Madura the Committee constituted for the Sri Minakshi Sundareswar, etc., Devasthanams alone is functioning.